GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3665
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2000
NATURAL CALAMITY IN HIMACHAL PRADESH
DHANI RAM SHANDIL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether on account of cloud bursts followed by natural calamities in some of the districts of Himachal Pradesh, the assessment of the loss of human life and properties made in terms of money is estimated to be Rs.10,000 crores;

(b) if so, the details of the relief measures undertaken by the Union Government in addition to the State Government to rehabilitate the people of the flood affected families of these areas;

(c) whether the State Government of Himachal Pradesh has approached the Union Government in this critical juncture for the financial assistance; and

(d) if so, the details of the demands of the State Government and the assistance provided by the Union Government in such situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a) to (d): As per reports from the Government of Himachal Pradesh, the flash floods affected the districts of Kinnaur, Mandi, Kulu and Shimla. More than 100 people had reportedly died besides damage to number of bridges, power projects and buildings.

In addition to the measures taken by the State Government,the Ministry Agriculture is coordinating the relief activities. Army is assisting in relief work and air-lifting of food and relief materials. Border Roads Organisation is assisting in repair/reconstruction of bridges and roads on National Highways. Department of Telecommunications has provided INMARSAT sets.Truck-loads of medical supplies has been despatched. Steps have been taken for supply of foodgrains at Below Poverty Line (BPL) rates to the affected families.

An amount of Rs.100 crore has been released to the State (Rs.50 crore as ways and means advance, Rs.45 crore as grant and Rs.5 crore as loan) for undertaking immediate relief and restoration measures. First instalment of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of Rs.8.44 crore is already with the State Government.Rs.50,000 ex-gratia each to the next of kin has been announced from the Prime Minister`s National Relief Fund.